

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 24 of 1875.]

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 12th June 1875.

THE *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 2nd June, thus comments on the new Municipal Bill:—The Bill has been framed with much care and attention. The more important of the existing municipal laws have all been incorporated in it. Our country has long had its *pancháyets*; but they did little in the way of improving roads and markets, or the sanitary condition of cities and villages. It must therefore be admitted that by thus conceding to the natives, though in a limited measure, the privilege of municipal government, the Lieutenant-Governor lays the foundation of an important principle, bearing upon the respective rights of Government and the public. But to make it the beneficial measure it is designed to be, the defects that disfigure it, must in the first place be removed. It is not, for instance, proper, as has been proposed in the Bill, to transfer the charges on the roads, hospitals, and schools, which have been hitherto met from the imperial funds, to the municipalities. For a little inattention, on the part of the Commissioners, will probably interfere seriously with their due and satisfactory working. It was precisely for this reason, also, that Sir George Campbell's Municipal Bill met with such strong opposition. In our opinion, it would not be improper to entrust the management and control of the funds, for carrying out these important works of public utility, to the municipalities, if the consent of the rate-payers were in the first instance obtained. It is needless to remark, that a sort of apathy will be the only consequence of limiting the powers of such a naturally timid people as the natives. It seems, therefore, more reasonable to reduce the powers of the Magistrate in municipal matters; and to vest the Commissioners and the rate-payers, who are men of more local experience than the Magistrates, with larger executive powers. Hence, instead of seeking to exercise their authority over the Commissioners, by setting aside their resolutions, on some work of public importance, the Magistrates should rather encourage them to persevere in their noble and useful efforts. The provision in the Bill, referring to the application of the funds of one municipality to another, subject to the consent of the Commissioners, is objectionable, on the ground that the Commissioners will, in all likelihood, be apt to side with the Magistrate, and will possess only a nominal power; and it will be a matter of extreme regret if, by such a misapplication of the municipal funds, the rate-payers be deprived of the benefits they are justly entitled to. We would therefore ask Government to throw out this section altogether.

HINDU RANJIKA,
June 2nd, 1875.

2. The *Rájsháhye Samáchar*, of the 2nd June, writes the following, in a lengthy editorial on the "Ill-feelings between Zemindars and their tenantry":—It is a good feature of the present Rent Bill, that the proposed

RAJSHAHYEH
SAMACHAR,
June 2nd, 1875.

settlements of the rent-rate are to be made decennial. After a settlement has once been made, it is not desirable that occasions should arise for altering it within ten years. In making it, however, due consideration should be bestowed on the interests of the parties concerned. It is the opinion of all, that are capable of judging on the subject, that this rate should be fixed, in accordance with the principle of dividing the produce of the land between the parties. The editor then proceeds to point out the defects, in the present Bill, that call for revision. (1) To show that the rent, realized from a piece of land, is not high, simply by a reference to the rate which obtains on adjacent lands, is not the way to solve the question satisfactorily; at best this sort of proof is indirect. (2) and (3). It is generally admitted that the rent-rate should vary according to the value of the produce, and the productive powers of the land; and (4) according to its measurement. To obviate, therefore, the delay and expenses to which suitors are now subjected in the civil courts, when the value of the produce and the productive powers of land are to be determined, it is desirable that, to the revenue officers of Government, should be entrusted the duty of ascertaining these points. They should, with the consent of the zemindars and their tenantry, or, if these happen to disagree, take upon themselves to estimate the quality of the land; and, by measuring its extent and produce, frame certain general rules for their guidance. If the quality of the land and the amount of produce be ascertained, it will be an easy matter to decide upon the annual produce, by a reference to the current prices.

This system, of fixing the rent-rate by a division of the produce, would obviate the difficulties that would otherwise be occasioned by an unequal standard of measurement. Under this system, neither the landlords nor the tenantry would have any ground of dissatisfaction, so long as the lands were measured by the same standard, whatever that might be. In our opinion, this should be a chain of eighty cubits in length; each cubit being eighteen inches. Now, the civil courts may easily fix the rent, due to the zemindar, by a reference to the quality of land and the amount of its produce, as ascertained by the revenue officers, and to the ruling prices. If any improvements are made in the land by the ryot at his own expense, he should be paid for the same by an abatement in the rent-rate for ten years, commencing from the date of such outlay. When a ryot gives up a holding of his own accord, he should not be allowed any compensation for unexhausted improvements. The value of a fourth part of the gross produce of land should be allotted to the zemindar as his due. The settlements should be made for ten years, and not modified or altered within that time.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
June 3rd, 1875.

3. In its opening article on the "Easiest way of gaining liberty," the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, of the 3rd June, dwells on the advantages that would accrue to the people of India, if they could but succeed in establishing a larger number of cotton mills in this country, and working them with care and perseverance. Such a measure will increase the wealth of the country, and furnish employment to multitudes, that are now in a state bordering on starvation. It will be a good day for India when she shall succeed in weaving her own cloths, when the wealth of the country will no longer go out of it, and Manchester will be outstripped in successful commerce.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

4. Adverting to the appointment of the Duke of Buckingham to the governorship of Madras, and his prospect of ultimately gaining the viceroyalty, the same paper remarks, that this has confirmed the surmises already

existing in the minds of the people, that Lord Northbrook, owing to his unpopularity in connection with the Baroda affair, will be obliged to retire from his office rather earlier than usual.

5. The *Education Gazette*, of the 4th June, makes the following remarks, in an article headed, the "Education Department:"—Our present Lieutenant-Governor is now engaged in making a number of necessary reforms in this department. A partial reform has only become necessary; for the educational measures of Sir George Campbell are not all objectionable. The establishment of district educational committees, the introduction into the schools of gymnastics and the study of the physical sciences, are admitted by all to be highly beneficial. But Sir George's great fault was, that he never gave heed to advice. An undue haste and hostility to the Education Department, as shewn by his conduct in depriving its responsible heads of all powers, made his measures conflict with one another, and impede the progress of the work. He made his government exercise a direct control even over the pettiest details. Such a policy seriously interfered with both its efficiency and despatch. The Director and the Inspectors, who possess greater experience in educational matters than Government, were divested of all powers.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
June 4th, 1875.

6. The *Bhārat Sangskāra*, of the 4th June, has a lengthy editorial on the "First Commission at Baroda." After explaining the report of the Commissioners, the writer makes the following observations:—Since the condemnation of the ex-Guicowar has been based on the results of the first Commission held at Baroda, it behoves us carefully to examine the character of the evidence adduced against him on that occasion. We have said before that the decision was *ex parte*. While the Guicowar was not allowed opportunities for defending himself, the evidence of hostile witnesses was accepted as the whole truth. This evidence, moreover, was procured, through the exertions of Colonel Phayre, in a truly strange manner. Statements of intriguers, even bazar rumour and the gratuitous allegations of designing men, have been eagerly received as evidence. But what were the charges proved by such evidence? That the land revenue in Baroda was high, that *nuzurana* was received in appointing officers, and that torture was inflicted on criminals for the purpose of extorting confessions. It was, however, added, that Mulharrao was not responsible for this state of things, the abuses having been in existence under his predecessor also. Now, what Native State, we ask, if enquiry be made, will be found free from such abuses? And if, for the existence of these, native princes are to be deposed, their name will in a short time be unheard of in India. Owing to their weakness, they can doubtless be easily deposed by the English Government; but we venture to ask, is the English Government, so powerful, so civilized, and so competent to teach others, itself free from grave abuses in its administration? Are unnecessary and oppressive taxes never imposed on the people under the English Government? Are not the oppressions of the tax-gatherers notorious? Are not the innocent oppressed by the police? Is there a single court, where bribery does not prevail publicly or in private, and where the suitors are not put to inconveniences beyond their endurance? A finance committee was once appointed in England, before whom a number of charges of extravagance was brought against the Indian Government. How many hundreds of complaints might be brought, if a superior authority were appointed to hear them? Government would doubtless have some pity for the shortcomings of others, if, when examining them, it were conscious of its own. It could easily, and in a friendly spirit, have caused the reform of the abuses in the Baroda

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
June 4th, 1875.

administration. Mulharrao was never disloyal to the British Government, whose absolute power has been clearly manifested; but the judgment, that has ruined him, will continue to be severely impeached at the bar of justice.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
June 4th, 1875.

7. The same paper, in an article on the "Indian Civil Service," makes the following remarks:—It is clear that the changes about to be introduced into the Indian Civil Service, however beneficial they may prove to others, will not do any good to the natives of India. We hear that the prescribed age of European candidates will be raised to 25 years; but that, in the case of natives, it will remain as before. Who does not see, that the existence of race feelings alone has brought about this invidious distinction? There can be no doubt, that by thus being enabled to complete their studies at the University till the 25th year, better men will come out as civilians to India than before. But is it not just to grant at least the same period of time to native candidates? If the sympathy of our rulers be not equally divided between native and European candidates, what is the use of keeping up the competitive system? Two men are set up as rivals; but one is well equipped, and the other has neither any defensive weapon in his hands, nor armour on his body: who can doubt that, in such a contest, the latter will be vanquished even at the first onset? It is a mockery to weaken the natives, and then to ask them to compete with Europeans. The only effect of this will be, that the doors of the Civil Service will be practically barred against them.

The English have now unmasked their real designs, and have assumed an attitude of open hostility towards the natives. It is now proposed to close the service against them. The charges brought against them are all of a trivial character, and proceed from violent dislike.—(1) The rules, laid down for determining the age of the native candidates, are strict, and have been framed with much care. Are these not sufficient?—(2) Native candidates are said to possess a habit of "cramming" their text-books. But cannot the present system, which furnishes opportunities for the exercise of this habit, be exchanged for one, in which the mental culture of the candidate shall be prominently tested?—(3) Defects in moral character are found equally in European as in native candidates.—(4) Europeans are no doubt in some measure superior to the natives in the possession of administrative talents. The subjection, itself, of natives to the British Government illustrates this. But are well-educated natives entirely wanting in them? It is not, indeed, cheering to think, that the appointments to the Civil Service, in the case of natives, will henceforth depend on the favour of Government, and not on the merits of the candidates.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
June 5th, 1875.

8. Adverting to the translations, that have lately appeared in the *Englishman*, of the *Chákar Darpan*, the "Tea Planters' Mirror," a Bengali drama, depicting their oppressions on the coolies in Assam, and to the comments of that journal on the subject, the *Hindu Hitoishini* of the 5th June remarks, that if the author be actually prosecuted, as it is feared he will be, some good will no doubt be done to the oppressed. The doings of the tea-planters will be exposed, and the people led to question their honesty. It is needless to observe that the public regard indigo-planters and tea-planters in very much the same light.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

9. The same paper thus concludes an editorial on "Baroda affairs:—It is now idle to weep over the deposition and poverty of Mulhar-rao. What we extremely regret is the fatal error of Lord Northbrook, which has contributed to enhance the pride of the Residents, and the fears of the native princes. What native prince will be now found courageous enough

to act against the will of the Residents? What is to be done to remove the stain on Lord Northbrook's fair fame? Even the ornaments of the daughter and the Ránis of Mulharrao have been taken from them. Has not Lord Northbrook's dignity suffered in this?

10. Referring to the memorial of the zemindars of Dacca to the Lieutenant-Governor, on the subject of arrears of rent, the *Dacca Prakash* of the 6th June observes that the prayer of the zemindars is reasonable, and deserves an attentive hearing. The editor regrets, that some of the other papers have written against this petition; and suggests that it will be proper to assign a fourth part of the entire value of the produce of land, minus the expenses defrayed for cultivation, to the zemindar, and the remainder to the ryot. Some feasible method should also be found out for the peaceable realization of arrears.

DACCA PRAKASH,
June 6th, 1875.

11. The *Sádháraní*, of the 6th June, complains, that while there are so many able manuals of the history and geography of India and Bengal, compiled by competent natives, and which are admirably suited to the capacities of native youth, the Lieutenant-Governor should have, in his recent Educational Minute, thoughtlessly recommended for their use, the books prepared in English, by Messrs. Lethbridge and Clarke, and their translations in Bengali. This is unjust, and will injure the interests of truly meritorious men, who have compiled the Bengali text-books. It is a pity, observes the editor, that the history of India, a knowledge of which is so important to native youth, is not one of the prescribed subjects in any examination.

SADHARANI,
June 6th, 1875.

12. The *Som Prakash*, of the 7th June, directs the attention of Government to the proposal made by Mr. MacEwen, of the Calcutta Small Cause Court, in connection with the Abkaree Act. It is one of great importance; and, if carried out, will do much good to the country. We would, however, request Government to make the suggestion applicable to the large as well as small liquor debts. How many families have been, and are still, ruined, from the fact that they can order liquor on credit!

SOM PRAKASH,
June 7th, 1875.

13. The same paper is gratified to find that Government has resolved on founding schools for imparting education in practical mechanics to natives. From the present condition of the various classes, such a measure has become urgently needful. For the use of the pupils, the required scientific works should be translated into Bengali. But scholars should receive a preliminary general training in Bengali literature, and be made acquainted with the more important of scientific truths.

SOM PRAKASH.

14. The *Sahachar*, of the 7th June, observes, in reference to the proposal to raise the prescribed age of candidates for the Indian Civil Service to 25 years, that, if carried out, this measure may be productive of beneficial consequences, if acted on simultaneously with another proposition made by Mr. Griffin, that the candidates should reside two or three years in either the Oxford or Cambridge Universities, after passing their first examination. Without the latter, the first will be of no avail whatever, and will only end in virtually closing the doors of the Civil Service against the natives; for it will be almost impossible for them to compete with men, who have obtained degrees in the University.

SAHACHAR,
June 7th, 1875.

15. Referring to the report of Mr. Beighton, the Sub-Divisional Officer of Serampore, on the late municipal elections in that place, the same paper remarks that the unsatisfactory character of municipal government in this country and the part taken in it by the native members, is greatly owing to the fact that the latter have very little of liberty or independent action

SAHACHAR.

allowed them by the presiding officers. Hence the system of municipal representation means only a mockery of self-government in this country. We would therefore suggest that members be elected from the ranks of educated men, and be allowed more liberty of action.

SAHACHAR,
June 7th, 1875.

16. The same paper remarks, in reference to the proposed amendments in the Abkaree Act, that Mr. MacEwen's suggestions on the subject of liquor debts should be received and acted on. They are in force in England, and, if introduced into this country, drunkenness will doubtless receive a salutary check.

SAHACHAR.

17. The same paper complains that, Sir Richard Temple, acting on the advice of interested councillors, has, in his recent Educational Minutes, struck out the important subjects of history of India, political economy, and, indirectly, zemindari and mahajani accounts, from the list of subjects prescribed for the Vernacular and Minor Scholarship examinations. This course will materially injure the interests of the students. The editor requests the Lieutenant-Governor to entrust the task of selecting the text-books to the Director of Public Instruction; whose experience and knowledge of the subjects make him the fittest person for this work.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

JOHN ROBINSON,

The 12th June 1875.

Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the
12th June 1875.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Ajijan Náhár"	Láhinipará, Kooshtea	Bi-monthly	21st April.
2	"Banga Bandhu"	Dacca	Ditto	29th May.
3	"Suhrid"	Muktágáchá, Mymensingh	Weekly	1st June.
4	"Hindu Ranjiká"	Bauleah, Rájsháhye	Ditto	2nd ditto.
5	"Rájsháhye Samáchar"	Karachmáris, Rájsháhye	Ditto	2nd ditto.
6	"Amrita Bazar Patriká"	Calcutta	Ditto	3rd ditto.
7	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	Ditto	4th ditto.
8	"Bhárat Sangakarak"	Harinávi, 24-Pergunnahs	Ditto	4th ditto.
9	"Hindu Hitoishini"	Dacca	Ditto	5th ditto.
10	"Dacca Prakásh"	Ditto	Ditto	6th ditto.
11	"Sádháraní"	Chinsurah	Ditto	6th ditto.
12	"Howrah Hitakari"	Bether, Howrah	Ditto	6th ditto.
13	"Som Prakásh"	Chángripottásh, 24-Pergunnahs	Ditto	7th ditto.
14	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	Ditto	7th ditto.
15	"Dút"	Ditto	Ditto	7th ditto.
16	"Sulabha Samáchar"	Ditto	Ditto	8th ditto.
17	"Sáptábhik Sambád"	Bhowanipore, Calcutta	Ditto	11th ditto.
18	"Samáchar Chandriká"	Calcutta	Bi-weekly	7th and 10th June.
19	"Sambád Prabhákar"	Ditto	Daily	2nd to 10th ditto.
20	"Sambád Purnachandrodaya."	Ditto	Ditto	4th to 11th ditto.
21	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu)	Ditto	Weekly	5th June.
22	"Behár Bandhu" (in Hindi)	Patna	Ditto	8th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 25 of 1875.]

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 19th June 1875.

The *Burisdál Bártábaha*, of the 2nd June, in an article on "Conferring titles of honor on deserving persons," observes, that it behoves Government to consider beforehand whether the honor conferred would suit the recipient, or whether his position would allow him to enjoy it with becoming dignity. This remark has been called for by the fact, that Government has of late become extremely lavish in the bestowal of titles, without discrimination in its choice. The writer has nothing to say against Rání Swarnamayí, of Cossimbazar, being invested with the title of Maharáni; for in her case the honor was fully deserved. It is not so, however, with all others. Again, the merits of persons deserving of suitable recognition have been, in many cases, but little appreciated. Sharat Sundarí Debí of Puntíá, a respectable and pious Brahmin lady, who, from her honorable connections, as well as from her extensive charity, has been all along known as Rání Sharat Sundarí, has recently had the title of Rání authoritatively conferred on her. This is no new honor to her. The title of Maharáni would have been more suitable. Again, Khajeh Assanullah, of Dacca, has been invested with the title of Khan Bahadur; one he has already enjoyed for a long time past, and which is frequently conferred on faithful and competent Mahomedan Inspectors of Police.

BURISDÁL
BARTABAHA,
June 2nd, 1875.

2. The *Suhrid*, of the 8th June, writes the following, in an editorial, headed the "Rebellious tenantry":—The persistent refusal of the majority of the tenantry of the present day punctually to pay what is due to the zemindars puts the latter to extreme inconvenience. Hard as their position is, in respect to the revenue and sale laws, the present Rent-Bill does not in the least help them out of the difficulty. It will rather, if passed into law, enable the ryot to defy his landlord, and resist even his just demands. Under these circumstances, we fully approve of the sentiments expressed in the recent memorial of the zemindars of Dacca to Government, pointing out the defects in the present Rent-Bill, and exhorting it to find out some feasible method by which they may be enabled to realize the arrears of rent due from their tenantry. The proposition made by the memorialists, as to the propriety of empowering them to effect the sale of permanent holdings, should the owners fail to pay the rent when it falls due, should, in our opinion, be carried out with proper restrictions.

SUHRID,
June 8th, 1875.

3. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 11th June, writing from Babunpore, in the district of Bogra, requests Government to cause the excavation of the Kurutoyá, which has silted up in many places.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
June 11th, 1875.

4. The *Bhárat Sangskarak*, of the 11th June, makes the following observations, in an article on the text-books appointed for the vernacular

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
June 11th, 1875.

allowed them by the presiding officers. Hence the system of municipal representation means only a mockery of self-government in this country. We would therefore suggest that members be elected from the ranks of educated men, and be allowed more liberty of action.

SAHACHAR,
June 7th, 1875.

16. The same paper remarks, in reference to the proposed amendments in the Abkaree Act, that Mr. MacEwen's suggestions on the subject of liquor debts should be received and acted on. They are in force in England, and, if introduced into this country, drunkenness will doubtless receive a salutary check.

SAHACHAR.

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